

between Member States and third countries and on the negotiation of Community agreements. This is a significant document, in that it sets out clearly the Commission's view on the Community's competence in international air relations both with respect to international organizations and bilateral air services agreements, and how such competence should be exercised.

The external effects of existing Community legislation were outlined as follows:

- ex post consultation on developments in the relations between Member states and third countries and on the functioning of significant elements of bilateral or multilateral agreements;
- on the implementation of the general provisions of the Treaty on air transport policy, the Commission sent a letter in September 1989 requesting Member States to amend all their bilateral agreements in conformity with Community law, particularly the designation by a Member State of Community (rather than national) carriers, whose substantial ownership and effective control is broadened to cover nationals of other Member States and/or Member States themselves;